

**Big E Planning Committee Meeting
November 10, 2005**

Eastern States Exposition

Called to Order at 9:30 am, Vermont Room, Storowton Tavern

The following committee members were in attendance: Kenneth Parker, Norm Hammond, Janet Hammond, Milton Natusch, Doug Butterfield, Cheryl Vest, Dave Lewis, Greg Breene, Dave Hopson, Keith Shane, Donna Woolam, Jerry Myers, Elena Hovagimian, Rick Martineault, Dave Howell, Richard Strangeway, Melanie Sanborn, Donna Moore, Dottie Wilcox, .

Also in attendance was Kevin Keith, National FFA.

Treasurer's Report read by Ken Parker

The report is attached to the minutes

Much Discussion ensued over the Stars program and the solicitation of other donors to maintain this event. Farm Credit should be asked for a donation of \$7000.

Motion passed

Auditing Committee Report

This report was tabled.

Big E Comments

Please see report previously submitted. Called attention to the new housekeeping as submitted in the previous report. Congratulations to Milton on his first year and all the people involved who helped the event go smoothly.

F Barn is ok for 2006 for holding events, however, in 2007 it maybe questionable depending on the ESE Horse Show.

If assistance is needed for finding Judges, please let the Agriculture Office know preferably by the 1st of September. All efforts will be made to assist superintendents.

Comments from Kevin Keith, National FFA

Please see report previously submitted. It was mentioned that Eastern States Exposition received a Distinguished Service Citation from National FFA and Wayne McCary received an Honorary FFA Degree.

FFA Coordinator's Report

Please see report attached to the minutes. Milton raised an idea about Farm-A-Rama and the use of the Corsage Making booth to include more interaction with the public by doing

spontaneous events in the building. So when the building is slow and corsages are not needed FFA can reach out and do more spontaneous lessons in agriculture. The use of mini tractors was mentioned.

The distribution of awards is confusing. It was suggested that Advisors pick up awards at the end of the banquet and tables will be setup. Kids will rise to receive their recognition.

Floral Arrangement & Landscape Exhibit ideas will need to be voted on in 2006.

Comments from CDE Superintendents

Safe Tractor – People can't find the event. Need to provide a seating area for spectators. A map of how to get to the event needs to be included in the CDE. The site was good except for the train issue. The buses need to have signs as to their destination for each CDE.

Prepared Public Speaking – it was mentioned that this position would like an assistant. They also have the same problem with finding Judges. The Agawam schools is a nice place except, the room was unbearably hot and something would like to be done about controlling the temperature.

Forestry – Forest Park works very well with them and is very accommodating to the needs of the CDE.

Livestock CDE – There were problems with the location of the reasons given during this event. It was held in an out of the way place and people still found a way to cut through the reasons. Thank you was extended to Laura Marek and Kaye Weaber and Parsons for the Market Lambs and Hog.

Dairy Cattle CDE – they need 3 stop watches and are going to work with Donna Moore.

Creed Speaking - They liked being in Moses and was much more conducive to having the event there. Changes will be made to match national.

Small Animal CDE – went very well. 4 teams participated. Time needs to be looked at for this event. Tables and Chairs also will change for this event as well. There was a request for a small budget of \$50-60 to purchase supplies. Cindy Walstead from the Woodbury FFA Chapter is the new assistant to this event.

Computerized Scoring Report

Please see attached scoring report. Big Thank You's went out to the Ogdens. There was much discussion about the use of computerized scoring. This was a nice addition to the Eastern Regionals. Concerns were raised about training and purchasing in regards to the scantrons. The suggestion of using National's equipment was raised, however, Sept is a busy time of year for National as they are already getting prepared for National.

ESE suggested that the buying the software was not the best thing, as we only use it for the 2 days of the event. ESE would consider buying it if a plan for loaning it out the states for their local and regional events would be of use. Licensing would be the only problem to consider and operators to use the equipment.

It is also a problem with superintendents not getting the information to the scorers prior to the event happening. It takes a large amount of time to generate the program to score properly. Some events still need to be modified to fit the event and cooperation is requested on behalf of the superintendents.

It was suggested that Carol Duvall be contacted if the Ogdens are no longer able to score.

State Officers Report.

The 3 interns did a great job and helped set the tone for the rest of the State Officers. The information was not coming in early enough to Mr. Strangeway. Email needs to be utilized more in this event. Invitations need to be extended to the "New States" as a way to encourage participation.

Action Items

Horse Showmanship – Tabled until 2006

Demonstration will be discontinued for 2006, due to lack of participation.

Judges Tokens – Standardization of these is to be as follows: A Big E Lapel Pin & A Stipend. It was noted that Judges Names need to be submitted to the Agriculture office by 09/01/2005 to allow ample processing time for checks. This was voted unanimously.

Moving the Star Pageant – It was suggested since it was FFA Day it should be moved to the main stage where it could receive more attention. It was mentioned that there would be no music or fanfare available. It was unanimously voted that the Pageant would stay in the circus tent.

New Business

It was suggested the Dr Annis be invited for 2006 and an award presentation for his years of service. Dave Howell and Dr Annis mentioned that they would be available for 2006 to participate or assist in anyway.

2006 National Changes their FFA CDE rules. These rules should be taken into consideration for the Eastern Regionals.

Landscape Exhibits – The scorecard is different for this event and needs to coincide with what is on the website. The results need to be submitted with more information or the scorecard needs to be returned to the state. A motion was unanimously passed that a

Superintendent is need for this event and they would also assume the role of Floral Arrangement Superintendent.

Waivers - Waivers were discussed and it was decided that the 2 separate waivers would be kept 1 for national and 1 for the Eastern Regional

Job Interview CDE – Dottie Wilcox posed this new cde. It will require 2 adjoining rooms: 1 for a receptionist and 1 for the judge. The ideal place for this event is at the hotel. It will follow the similar format as national and is conducted similar to a speaking contest. This will be a pilot for 2006. Dottie will be superintendent of this event. It was vote unanimously to enter into the 3 year evaluation period.

Next Year's Meeting

Will be held on November 9, 2006 at 9:30 am.

Meeting Adjourned.

Eastern Exposition Planning Meeting Report – National FFA Organization Involvement – Kevin Keith, LPS Specialist Reporting

The 2005 Eastern Exposition FFA Days events were attended by three National FFA Organization staff. Doug Loudenslager, Chief Operating Officer; Tom Kapostasy, Business Services Division Director and Kevin Keith, Local Program Success Specialist. In addition, Jay Kelly, Eastern Region Vice President of the National FFA Organization attended, representing the National FFA Officer Team. All had a very nice time and the three staff members assisted in the judging of the Prepared Speaking CDE on Friday and visited a number of the live CDE's on Saturday of the event. Comments were staff and officer were very positive, although a comment was shared that advance information on speaking expectations would help the National Officer better prepare for the variety of activities they participate in. Staff agreed on the importance of the event and the great opportunity it offers students in the Eastern Region. There is strong feeling that more of the eligible states should participate in the Eastern Exposition.

In planning for next year, we have garnered support from organization leadership for Larry Gossen, LPS Specialist for the Central Area of the Country (works with OH, IN, IL, MI, and KY, all states which are eligible for the Big E FFA activities; and Clay Worley, Membership Specialist who works with most of the states currently participating on the Eastern Exposition FFA Day Activities. I will continue to work on other key staff to attend and participate in this unique event.

Any comments from attendees directed toward the National FFA Organization participation are welcome and should be forwarded to Kevin Keith, LPS Specialist, National FFA Organization, kkeith@ffa.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Keith, LPS Specialist, Northeastern Area of the United States
National FFA Organization

BIG E FFA Coordinators Report November 2005

At the beginning of my report I would like to personally thank the many volunteers and supporters of FFA for making 2005 a very successful year for the many FFA activities at the BIG E. There is no doubt that without each person providing 110% plus towards the activities, we would not have a program.

Here are some highlights of my observations:

- ? The three interns we had this year were terrific and my thanks go out to each of them. They came from Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Delaware. They were involved in more than paperwork tasks and sorting items. Each of them was assigned specific tasks in addressing other groups on the grounds and being FFA Ambassadors at the BIG E.
- ? The registration materials for the CDE's and other events were much more prompt than in prior years but work remains in getting the waivers in a timely manner.
- ? Elena and Judy from the BIG E was a tremendous asset and I could not have done my job without their help! Kudos to each of them!!! I do not want to forget Donna Woolam – she was extremely supportive of new ideas and initiatives and made this year very positive for me as a newcomer.
- ? The new Small Animal CDE was a success! We had four teams the first year with other states watching. I hope more teams will participate in the future from the eastern region so we can begin the process of having this event as a National CDE.
- ? The Sheraton-Springfield Hotel did an excellent job of working with the FFA for the CDE's room utilization and banquet hall. We had a record number of attendees this year. Many thanks to the Maine Potato Board for providing potatoes. Thanks also to Land O'Lakes Foundation, Inc. for being a partial sponsor.
- ? The use of computerized scoring for many of the events work out extremely well and we need to encourage more CDE Superintendents to utilize this resource. It made the task of identifying student placing much easier for the Interns. I want to personally thank Jim and Carol Ogden for all their efforts with scoring.
- ? Though we did not have representation from the new Eastern Regional States in any of our events, I will continue to communicate with them and let them know of this opportunity for their FFA members.

- ? The Demonstration event continued to show low number of participants. This being the final year of the demonstration period, I am recommending this event be discontinued.
- ? The new floral design booth in the Farm-A-Rama building looked great to the fair going public and should be used again next year.
- ? The landscape displays were a big hit this year. The theme “Sensory Gardens” was very appropriate and really demonstrated great landscaping skills to the public. Winners were: 1st Housatonic Valley FFA, CT; 2nd – Scituate FFA, RI; 3rd LPVEC FFA, MA; 4th Northwestern Regional FFA, CT; 5th Wamogo Regional, CT; Biglerville FFA, PA.
- ? The Japanese floral designs were well received by the judges and found them challenging to score. Several designs fell off the doors during the moving of the doors by Farm-A-Rama staff, which became a concern for those students who designs were affected.
- ? I developed number of new initiatives this year:
 - A better designed and functional web site for the FFA program on the BIG E site. We will continually explore ways to improve this even more for next year.
 - PowerPoint certificates for chapter advisors to use to generate recognition for every student who participated at the BIG E. We also develop a similar certificate for judges for all CDE’s which was also available on-line.
 - Better communication through increased emails to CDE Superintendents and assistants through out the year.
- ? I do thank all the CDE Superintendents for getting their final reports to me in a timely manner. It made my job so much easier. We had approximately 1000 students involved with the FFA CDE’s and other FFA Activities. This total does not include the many students and advisors which came as part of field trips and other activities which the BIG E provided tickets and parking passes.
- ? This year we had Kevin Keith, Doug Loudenslager and Thomas Kaposky from the National FFA as well as Jay Kelly, National FFA Officer. I thank them all for supporting the BIG E FFA activities this year.
- ? I would like to see some interactive fun activities in the Farm-A-Rama building beside the floral corsage making for children visiting the building. I feel the need to have as part of the floral corsage booth more information about what the FFA is, especially helpful when the FFA members are not there.

Again, I am deeply supportive of the many volunteers and helpers who made 2005 a great year. There will always be challenges with space, equipment and staffing, but I feel confident there will always be a solution found!

Respectfully submitted;

Milton S. Natusch
BIG E FFA Coordinator

Comments from the Agricultural Manager
For FFA Planning Committee, November 2005

On behalf of the Exposition I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the folks involved with the 2005 FFA activities.

In this transition year it is our opinion that all went relatively smooth. New coordinator, Milton Natusch, did an excellent job in making all of our activities run smoothly and efficiently. Jim and Carol Ogden created an updated scoring technique that we hope will continue to evolve and be used by the majority of the events.

The Exposition was very pleased to be able to host the three young people chosen as interns. They were a welcome addition to our office during the event and represented FFA at Big E functions including our Pre Opening Media event and Green Pastures reception and dinner.

The Exposition is pleased to host a regional event of this magnitude and will continue to do so with the help of many FFA volunteers.

Some “housekeeping” changes for this year that we would like to institute:

1. CDE's on the web. On December 1st we will remove from the website the 2005 CDE's. As we receive changes from the Supt. we will put the 2006 CDE back up on the site. We would like to have this completed by Jan. 1, 2006. All supt. will be notified one week before the CDEs are taken down. We feel this is a more timely and efficient manner to get the updating done for 2006. In this office Elena will handle the website work.
2. We realize that there are some issues with specific events that we need to look at on an individual basis and Milton and the Exposition staff will be doing that in the near future.

Respectively submitted:
Donna G. Woolam
Agriculture Manager

FFA BIGE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS SUPERINTENDENTS NOTES 2005

Name of CDE: Parliamentary Procedure	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Janet Rosequist	yes
Assistants: Maria Vanderwoude	yes

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

Timers, lots of paper and index cards

? Additional Notes:

Name of CDE: Dairy Handlers	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Cheryl Vest	yes
Assistants:	

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

None needed

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

Show harnesses, laptop, clipboards, numbers

? Additional Notes:

Name of CDE: Extemporaneous speaking	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Donna Moore	yes
Assistants: Tiffany Hoy, Penn State	yes

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

? Additional Notes:

Name of CDE: Demonstration	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Norm Hammond	End of three year cycle with limited participation
Assistants: Dottie Wilcox	

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

None needed

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

? Additional Notes:

Name of CDE: Prepared Public Speaking	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Kimberly LaFleur	yes
Assistants: none	

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

Judges gifts \$60.00

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

Stop watches, contestant programs, podium

? Additional Notes:

Name of CDE: Small Animal	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Melanie Sanborn	yes
Assistants: none	

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

?

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

? Additional Notes: Need assistant!

Name of CDE: Horse evaluation	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Linda Corson	yes
Assistants: Elsie Bornstein	yes

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

Should consider a stipend of \$25 per class to judges for this event.

?

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

FFA scorecards, we provide a snack, pencils

? Additional Notes:

Name of CDE: Dairy Foods	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Sam Jacobs	yes
Assistants: Janet Rosequist	yes

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

Pay judges – 2 nights at hotel, meals and travel.

Various supplies and materials for CDE

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

Tables and trash cans

? Additional Notes: the facility works well for this event.

Name of CDE: Agriculture Mechanics	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Thomas March	yes
Assistants: Bruce Wright and Doug Hammond	yes

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

Will need \$50 for lumber and fasteners for 2006

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

Small engines; tools, literature, tables, chairs

? Additional Notes: E Barn is a much better facility than F barn for ag mechanics but facility does limit possibilities.

Name of CDE: Agronomy	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Steven Gower	yes
Assistants: Alyssa R. Gower (new for 2006)	yes

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

?

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

Additional Notes: I believe the Agronomy CDE is running fairly well. We only had 6 states compete in 2005, but with a little work (calling, hounding) next summer I believe I can get a solid 8 teams competing. Anymore teams than 8 might be wishful thinking because some states don't have a "state" Agronomy or Crops contest. I am working with Harold Brown with the National Agronomy CDE to hopefully allow the Agronomy CDE at the Big E count as a "qualifying event" so that teams can compete at the national contest.

I provide all the materials for this contest (live plants, seeds, plant diseases, insects, handouts, lots of paper, computer, printer, etc.).

My contest is on Friday and I am the only person running the contest. I ask that you request that my tables and chairs be in the building by early morning, maybe 8 am to 9 am. I need a few hours to set up the contest and score it well before the students arrive at 2 pm. Since my tables didn't arrive until noon, Dave (I don't know his last name) helped me out a lot in setting up the chairs and tables.

I also ask that the contest remain in the E Barn. In the past, it was held in the F barn which as a leaky roof and dirt floor. The E Barn is very nice and, I think, less preferred by horse people for various reasons.

Name of CDE: Environmental and Natural Resources	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Ronald Frederick	yes
Assistants: Renee Frederick	yes

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

?

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

? Additional Notes:

Name of CDE: Safe tractor Operation	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: David Lewis & Greg Breene	yes
Assistants: none	

- ? Budget Considerations for 2006:
- ?
- ? List of materials you used with your CDE:

- ? Additional Notes:
- ?

Name of CDE: Poultry	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Robert Lauffer	yes
Assistants: Fellenbaum	yes

- ? Budget Considerations for 2006:
- ?
- ? List of materials you used with your CDE:

- ? Additional Notes: Poultry will attempt to carry forward with any of the new changes to the National Poultry CDE. We feel the BIG E is superior to the National CDE, but it is time consuming to do it the way we do. We will re-visit the team event as a committee and make a recommendation.

Name of CDE: Ag Business	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: John Bradley & Doug Robertson	yes
Assistants: none	

- ? Budget Considerations for 2006:
none
- ? List of materials you used with your CDE:
Tests, pencils, scantron sheets, calculators

- ? Additional Notes: Make sure that Richard Baldwin at the Corporate Center is sent tickets to the BIG E events.

Name of CDE Nursery Landscaping	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: David Moran	yes
Assistants: Gable, Plasky and . Brittain	yes

- ? Budget Considerations for 2006:
- ?
- ? List of materials you used with your CDE:
Need more chairs
- ? Additional Notes: Keep E Barn in the future.

Name of CDE: Forestry	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Rick Martineau	New for 2006
Assistants: George Lyman and Jim Pomeroy	yes

- ? Budget Considerations for 2006:
- ? Grade stakes need to be purchased for next year - \$50.00
- ? List of materials you used with your CDE:

- ? Additional Notes:

Name of CDE: Livestock	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Keith Shane	yes
Assistants: Laura Marek	yes

- ? Budget Considerations for 2006:
Same as this year
- ? List of materials you used with your CDE:
Neckbands, show harnesses, livestock corral pens, #2 pencils, marker pens
- ? Additional Notes: Livestock will continue as is, and will increase # of reasons in future. Dairy also needs to increase number of reasons.

Name of CDE: Dairy cattle	Continue again for 2006?
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Superintendent: Gwynne Millar	yes
Assistants: Norm Hammond	yes

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

?

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

Stop watches, pencils

? Additional Notes

I would like to see more participation in the demonstration CDE.

Name of CDE: Floriculture	Continue again for 2006?
Superintendent: Chas Mavrelion and Douglas Butterfield	yes
Assistants:	

? Budget Considerations for 2006:

? List of materials you used with your CDE:

? Additional Notes: As far as I am concerned this was the best year ever for the floriculture event. For once we had enough tables, (thanks for dressing them up with covers and skirts it looked much more professional) Using the floral arranging booth for the contest works well except you need to tell the group doing the floral demonstrations that we don't finish the contest till noon. Special thanks to Jim Ogden the scoring machine worked great.

October 31, 2005

Eastern States Exposition FFA Planning Committee
West Springfield, MA

RE : FFA Stars Report

On September 17, 2005 the FFA Stars Program was conducted with twenty four star participants from ten northeastern states participating. Twelve knowledgeable judges from four states conducted interviews and reviewed the SAE records of applicants in four categories – Star Farmer, Star Agricultural Placement, Star Agribusiness and Star Agriscience. Stars, parents, and advisors attended a delicious luncheon in Old Storowton Tavern and later in the afternoon participated in an awards ceremony before the Big E Circus audience.

A special thanks goes to the Northeastern Farm Credit Associations who sponsors this event with a five thousand dollar contribution. I would like to especially thank Mr. James Putnam, Senior Vice President of First Pioneer Farm Credit for his personal involvement as a judge and representative of Farm Credit.

The following are my concerns for this activity:

- ? Applications vary from very well done, neat, typed with all components including signatures – to – poorly completed, hand written, missing components and signatures.
- ? Professional photographs of stars, Farm Credit representative and National FFA Officer need to be scheduled by Big E for publicity purposes. Photographs need to be made available soon after the event
- ? The FFA Stars Program is under funded. The Stars budget is approximately \$7000. while the Farm Credit support is \$5000. This is a large appropriation for the Farm Credit Ag Enhancement Program. Perhaps additional funds can be enlisted from other Farm Credit Associations to our south and west.
- ? There was some confusion regarding the application. We expected a Big E Summary as well as a State Degree or American Degree Application.
- ? Only 3 states from New England participated.
- ? Suggested scoring rubric worked well.
- ? More judges are needed from more states.

Sincerely,

B.Harrison Griffin, Stars Program Superintendent

Big E NCS Scanner Scoring Report:

The scoring committee, Jim and Carol Ogden, scored 7 events on the National Program, and there were 7 events turned into us recorded on the Excel Program, plus there was one event hand scored with hand written results, Dairy Products. This is not including Tractor operator, Parliamentary Procedure, Demonstration, Creed, Extemporaneous, Prepared Speaking or the 4 Stars Programs. The Excel Results were turned into us at the trailer and we copied them on to the same CD. Our results with the National Scanning Program was exported into the Excel Program, which made the results all blend well for posting on the website.

We did not have one section of the Livestock Event included in the results, which was our fault, a misunderstanding in the scoring trailer. It will not happen again, we have the program set up to take care of this now. We had one event with a few corrections from the officials, we ran that event twice. The little things take up so much time, and with the bulk of the events turned in at the same time, caused some backup. We have Steve Gower, Agronomy Event, helping next year, he will be transferring the Excel Results from the non National Program, which will cut down on down time for next year. The results for the Virginia 4-H team drug us down a bit. We need to encourage the 4-H to have a livestock event in future years, we were asked ahead of time if we could do it and told them, no problem, but they came in at the same time as others and this was not taken into consideration, and the contest results took longer.

We recommend that the Big E purchase the National Program through Doug Cotterill, it is \$1000 until the first of December. Doug is the only one that sells this, he is also the developer. You can also purchase a scanner through him. Ct. is talking about purchasing the program and may have a scanner, this could be used by the Big E if we were not available to score in the future.

We recommend for next year, to have "one" person, who is well versed in that event, that might catch any errors in scoring, to check the printed results after the scoring is finished.

All things taken into consideration, the scanning program went well, the events that were hand scored and posted in Excel were good about bringing them to us, and with the CDEs being exported into Excel, makes all the results look similar, and provides line scores for all contestants. We will be happy to score as long as we are available and working with the Ohio CDEs.

National Program Events Scanned and Exported into Excel:

Dairy Cattle
Floriculture
Forestry
Livestock
Nursery and Landscaping
Poultry
Small Animal

Events Hand Scored and Posted in Excel:

Agronomy
Ag. Business

Ag. Mechanics

Dairy Handlers

Horse

Natural Resources

Hand Scored and Hand Written Results:

Dairy Products

Events we did not see or see results from:

Parliamentary Procedure

Creed

Extemporaneous

Prepared

Tractor Operation

Demonstration

4 Start Programs